

Lester makes key penalty save there's no stopping in-form Wycombe



Efforts that did not go in against Walthamstow as Terry Glynn heads just wide.

By MICHAEL KNOX Wycombe 4, Woking 0

THERE'S no stopping Wycombe's wonders. The brilliant Blues took their tally to nine goals in two games with a dazzling 4-0 victory over Woking at Loakes Park on Tuesday.

In a spectacular match, to which the visitors contributed their fair share of entertainment, Wycombe produced a host of skills to thrill a fair-sized crowd.

Wanderers may have enjoyed more than their share of luck, because Woking were by no means four goals worse than them. Indeed if the ball had run their way, the visitors could well have snatched a draw.

Wycombe have not always enjoyed the best of luck but they did so on Tuesday night. But a side that shows such flair and spirit of adventure deserves to succeed. Mike Keen's team certainly do their best to please the crowd.

Early goals

Afterwards one Wycombe player described Woking "as the best side we've played this season." That is not far from the truth, as no team has had the Blues' defence in more difficulty.

Wanderers, with Saturday's 5-0 victory over Walthamstow fresh in the mind, received the perfect start with two goals in the first seven minutes.

They raced into the attack from the first whistle and in the second minute Steve Long fired goalwards from the edge of the penalty area. The ball was trapped by a defender but it bounced conve-

niently to Glynn who netted from close range.

The second goal also showed how fortune favours the bold. Tony Price was put away down the right with a clear shooting chance. However he sliced his shot so badly that it went screaming across the face of the goal.

Jimmy Jacobs stopped the ball on his chest and fired it into the back of the net from about six yards out to put Wycombe in total command.

But any suggestions that Wanderers would have a comfortable night were quashed by some brilliant attacking football from the visitors who realised they had to fight their way out of a corner.

Problems

With John Cooper pushing forward and the speedy Steve Scrivens causing problems to Paul Birdseye on the flank, Woking created several good chances. Both Alan Morton and Tony Field missed from close in, while at the other end Glynn was denied only by the goalkeeper's knees.

But the real Woking onslaught came at the start of the second half and it was then that goalkeeper Gary Lester came to Wycombe's rescue. Only his quick reactions thwarted Morton after a disastrous back pass by Jimmy Jacobs, and he later saved well from Field.

The crucial moment of the whole game, however, came in the 54th minute when Woking were awarded a penalty after George Borg had stopped Morton's goalbound shot with his arm.

Field struck the spot-kick well to Lester's left but the goalkeeper went the correct way and gathered the ball at

the second attempt. This was Lester's third penalty save out of five this season — a remarkable statistic.

Thus relieved Wycombe attacked again and were awarded a free-kick 30 yards out. Paul Birdseye floated the ball over to Long who headed in via the left hand post and goalkeeper Graham Roope's legs.

This was an unfortunate moment for the former England cricketer, who seems more adept at catching the smaller ball, than handling a football.

No chance

But he stood no chance of saving Wycombe's fourth and final goal in the 65th minute. Glynn left the ball for Holfield who ran on to Long's pass and raced through to score his first senior goal since suffering that prolonged injury about a year ago.

Still, Woking refused to lie down and the home goal had several more narrow escapes in the closing stages. But this was a night on which Woking were destined not to score, while Wycombe showed their critics they can play a bit!

WYCOMBE: G. Lester; G. Borg, P. Birdseye, R. Davies, S. Hardwick, R. Dell, S. Long, A. Price, T. Glynn, J. Jacobs, M. Holfield. Sub: G. Tait (not used).

WOKING: G. Roope; D. Howitt, L. Barrett, M. Black, R. Leather, J. Cooper, N. Fletcher, A. Field, A. Morton, S. Scrivens, A. Booth. Sub: S. Fuller (not used).

Referee: M. Richardson (Chislehurst). **Half-time:** 2-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Glynn (2 mins), Jacobs (7), Long (66). Holfield (65).

Attendance: 770.

Mini-match

THE Berks and Bucks Senior Cup match between Wycombe Wanderers and Hungerford tomorrow (Saturday) will be sponsored by Henlys Garage. Four Mini-Metros will be on display.